NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and Space Administration **Langley Research Center** Hampton, Virginia 23681-2199



December 5, 2002

Kimberly W. Land (Phone 757/864-9885, 757/344-8611 mobile) k.w.land@larc.nasa.gov

RELEASE: 02-088

NASA SCI FILES STAR TO BE FEATURED BY 'TEEN PEOPLE'

You may recognize her from the popular PBS children's show, *The NASA SCI Files*, as one of the enthusiastic tree house detectives. She's a role model for girls and African-American youth in math and science studies. And she's caught the eye of Teen People magazine.

The magazine, which reaches over 1.6 million readers a month, is looking for extraordinary teens "who will change the world" to feature in their April 2003 issue. They are sure they've found one at NASA Langley Research Center.

On Monday, Dec. 9, a film crew from Teen People magazine, New York, will have a photo shoot with 13 year-old Bianca Baker on *The NASA SCI Files* set at NASA Langley.

<u>Media Opportunity:</u> An opportunity to meet and interview Miss Baker is scheduled for 1 p.m., Monday, Dec. 9. B-roll will be available of the latest episode of The NASA SCI Files. Media who wish to attend should contact Kimberly Land at (757) 864-9885 or 344-8611 (mobile) for credentials.

Baker, a Portsmouth, Va., resident, plays the lead role on the TV series and is one of the original cast members since its inception in 1999. At 13, her resume includes appearances at Space Day 2002, and the World Space Congress held in October in Houston. School honors include a National Science Merit Award, National All-American Merit Award and National Honor Roll Award, and service on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, Portsmouth, Va.

The NASA SCI Files introduces students in grades 3 through 5 to NASA; integrates mathematics, science, and technology through the use of problem-based learning, scientific inquiry and the scientific method; and seeks to motivate students to become critical thinkers and active problem solvers.

The show has won three regional Emmy awards, two International Film Festival awards and numerous other Web-design awards and has reached over 3.7 million students worldwide and about 167,000 registered educators and parents. Produced by NASA Langley's Office of Education, The NASA SCI Files can be seen on PBS-member stations across the United States.